Music of the World introduces students to the history, theory, and genres of music, from the most primitive surviving examples through the classical to the most contemporary in the world at large. The course is offered in a two-semester format. The first semester covers primitive musical forms and classical music. The second semester presents the rich modern traditions, including American jazz, gospel, folk, soul, blues, Latin rhythms, rock and roll, and hip-hop.

The course explores the interface of music and social movements and examines how the emergent global society and the Internet bring musical forms together in new ways from all around the world.

Length: Two Semesters

Unit 1: Introduction to Music Appreciation

- Course Overview
- Sound and Hearing
- Music Theory I
- Unit Wrap-Up

Unit 2: Music of the Primitive and Ancient World

- Music of the Primitive World
- Ancient Greek Music
- Ancient Roman Music
- Music Theory II
- Music of the Primitive and Ancient World Wrap-Up

Unit 3: Music of the Middle Ages and Renaissance

- Music of the Middle Ages
- Music of the Renaissance
- Early Notation, Performance, Practices, and Musical Instruments
- Music Theory III
- Music of the Middle Ages and Renaissance Wrap-Up

Unit 4: Baroque and Classical Music

- Music of the Baroque Period
- Opera
- Music of the Classical Period
- Important People in Music
- Baroque and Classical Music Wrap-Up

Unit 5: Romantic and 20th-Century Music

- Music of the Romantic Period
- Nationalistic and Patriotic Music
- 20th-Century Music

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- Important People in Music
- Romantic and 20th-Century Music Wrap-Up

Unit 6: Semester Wrap-Up

Unit 7: Jazz Music

- Jazz up to Cool: 1860 – 1950
- Jazz from Cool: 1950 – Present
- Improvisation
- Musical Theater, Film, and Television
- Jazz Music Wrap-Up

Unit 8: Blues, Gospel, Soul, and Motown Music

- The Blues
- Gospel Music
- Soul Music
- Motown
- Blues, Gospel, Soul, and Motown Music Wrap-Up

Unit 9: Folk, Bluegrass, and Country Music

- Shared Heritage
- Folk Music
- Bluegrass Music
- Country Music
- Folk, Bluegrass, and Country Wrap-Up

Unit 10: Rock-and-Roll Music

- Rock and Roll
- Important People in Rock-and-Roll Music
- The Evolution of Rock and Roll
- Promoting Music
- Rock-and-Roll Music Wrap-Up

Unit 11: Hip-Hop Music and Culture

- Hip-Hop Music and Culture
- Important People in Hip-Hop
- Other Styles of Music
- Careers in Music
- Hip-Hop Music and Culture Wrap-Up

Unit 12: Semester Wrap-Up

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